



# LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Spring 2009

## New WLI Leadership

After four years at the helm of the Whitefish Lake Institute, former President Gene Hedman and Vice-President Jack Fletcher have passed on the leadership duties to incoming President Greg Lane and Vice-President Karen Reeves.



(L-R) Incoming President Greg Lane, Past President Gene Hedman and Past Vice-President Jack Fletcher.

Greg is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Fidelity National Timber Resources, Inc. (FNTR), which focuses on real estate investment and development, primarily in the Northwest United States and is the majority owner of

Cascade Timberlands, LLC, which owns approximately 290,000 acres in central Oregon.

Prior to coming to Montana, Greg served as Senior Vice President - Mergers & Acquisitions Counsel of Fidelity National Financial Inc. (NYSE: FNF), one of the nation's largest and most respected title insurance companies

Karen has a forestry degree from the University of Montana and has spent time as a fire lookout and timber cruiser. Karen serves on the Flathead Resource Advisory Committee and is active in long range planning issues especially as they relate to natural resources.

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**Whitefish Lake**  
**INSTITUTE**

*Protecting and improving the  
Whitefish, Montana area  
lake resources*

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**Founded in 2005**

The Whitefish Lake Institute is committed to acquiring scientific research and engaging the local citizenry to protect and improve the Whitefish area lake resources of today, while providing a collective vision for tomorrow.

**Board of Directors**

- Greg Lane, *President*
- Karen Reeves, *Vice President*
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- Susan Fletcher
- Sue Moll
- Nick Palmer
- Steve Qunell

**Staff**

- Mike Koopal– Executive Director
- Chris Ruffatto– Environmental Scientist

**LakeFront** is published quarterly by the Whitefish Lake Institute. The opinions expressed in **LakeFront** are those of the authors. We welcome comments.

**Mike Koopal, Editor**

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*Aerial view of Whitefish Lake looking north*  
 Courtesy: gravityshots.com

**Whitefish to Eureka Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program**

The Whitefish Lake Institute and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks are looking for more volunteers to assist in the Whitefish to Eureka Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. This is the second year of the program which is designed to collect long-term baseline information on these lakes. For many of the lakes, no previous data exists.

Lake property owners, summer cabin owners, recreationists, and just people who are interested in their local lakes are encouraged to become volunteer monitors.

Volunteers will receive training and equipment to assist them in data collection. Volunteers will be asked to monitor their lake(s) twice per month, weather permitting.

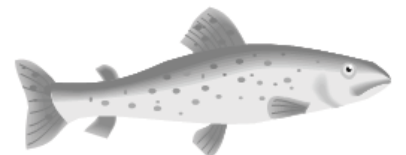
Currently, there are openings for volunteers on the following lakes:

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Nearest Community</u>
Little Beaver	Whitefish
Murray	Whitefish
Smith	Whitefish
Bull	Fortine
Fish	Fortine
Glen	Eureka
Frank	Eureka
Sophie	Eureka

.....  
 If you are interested in becoming a lake volunteer, contact WLI at 862-4327.  
 .....



*Linda Sawtelle volunteers to collect lake data during the summer of 2008.*



Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks has hired Kristin Dotence to help with the Whitefish to Eureka Lake Volunteer Monitoring Program. Kristin is a recent graduate of the University of Montana with a degree in biology with an ecology emphasis. Kristin will work directly with volunteers to collect lake data. In addition, Kristin will provide upkeep of the equipment, maintain the lake database, and prepare reports for the program. Kristin's office is at the Whitefish Lake Institute and she can be reached at 862-4327.

## THE ROCK HAS DROPPED

Yes, it is official. Spring has sprung. On April 14th, **THE ROCK DROPPED!**

The Rock Drop, a fundraiser for the Whitefish Lake Institute gave people opportunities to place \$5 wagers on what day they predicted the Rock would drop through the ice. Proceeds from this event go to the Whitefish Lake Institute Frank Morrison, Jr. Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be given to a local high school senior or college student who is pursuing a degree in the environmental sciences.

After appearing in the Whitefish Winter Carnival Parade, the rock was placed out on the ice in front of The Lodge at Whitefish Lake. All winter, the rock enjoyed great notoriety and was the topic of much speculation from both the community and from the good patrons of the Boat Club who enjoyed the best vantage point.

Ten intuitive people placed their bets for April 14th. The first name drawn from the pile for a 50/50 split of the total pot went to Sean Frampton of Whitefish. He was presented with a check for \$500. Second prize was two nights accommodation at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake. Dan Hittle of Columbus, IN was the happy recipient.

None of the "good-guessers" went away empty-handed. Each one was giving a choice of receiving a handsome Whitefish Lake Institute T-shirt or a bathymetric map of the lake. In addition, Chappy, the infamous bartender at The Boat Club gladly poured them a refreshment in a toast to the rock's sacrifice, all in the name of good fun and a good cause.

The Whitefish Lake Institute would like to thank all of this year's participants for supporting a future environmental scientist and The Lodge at Whitefish Lake and their enthusiastic staff for their support.

### ***Frank Morrison Jr. Environmental Scholarship***

In honor of the late Frank Morrison, Jr., the Whitefish Lake Institute is offering a scholarship in the amount of \$500. Frank was the first to sign on as a WLI board member and served as the first Vice President of the organization.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, a local graduating senior or current university student must be pursuing a degree in the environmental sciences and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Applicants must fill out a short, one-page application. The scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2009. For more information, contact WLI at 862-4327.



*The Rock Drop structure, from which an actual rock was suspended, stubbornly resists it's ultimate plunge into the lake on April 14th. The rock and the structure were retrieved from the lake on the following weekend.*



*Sean Frampton, winner of the 2009 rock drop accepts a check from Rock Drop organizer, and Citizen's Advisory Committee member, Sue Fletcher.*



Spring Photos



Colleen Sullivan, Whitefish High Biology Teacher, spent a day collecting lake data with Mike Koopal and Kristin Dolence.



Water rises on Swift Creek at the DelRey Road Bridge in late May. At the time of the picture, the stream was flowing at approximately 700 cubic feet per second.



**Thanks Jim!**

Jim Berry, owner of Mobile Marine Service, donated his time, and some parts, to tune-up the research boat's motor.



Chris Ruffatto's Project FREEFLOW students collected physical and chemical data May 19<sup>th</sup> on Haskill Creek as part of a long-term monitoring study. Earlier in the day, the students toured the city water plant.



Mrs. Treiweiler's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class takes a moment to pose for a photo during the annual fish dissection given by WLI director Mike Koopal. Mike completed a dissection for all six 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes over two days. The fish used in the dissections were courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders also got to see zooplankton and other invertebrates from Whitefish Lake via microscopes courtesy of a mini-education grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

## Whitefish Lake Institute Membership

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 Paul and Colleen Verdon– Colfax, WI  
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Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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- Lake Benefactor \$250
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